

Price of a barrel of petroleum
US\$ 73.89
↑ 0.98

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

MINISTER WANTED



People hold up pictures of the victims of the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center on the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009. The terrorist attack was the worst on Argentine soil, killing 85 people, injuring over 200 and demolishing the Argentine Israeli Mutual Aid Association, known as the AMIA.

See International News on Page B8

SPORTS NEWS
FINALLY FIRST



Allyson Felix of the United States of the United States reaches out to take the U.S. flag as she celebrates after winning the gold medal in the final of the Women's 200m during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Friday, Aug. 21, 2009.

See Sports Today on Page B10

Gloria Vega to perform at Sea Jazz Festival



ORANJESTAD - Born in Colombia in 1974, Gloria Vega moved to Aruba when she was just two years old. Here she learned to play the guitar from her grandfather

At Tierra del Sol golf course

and to sing. Gloria became the runner-up in the Scol-i-Landia Escolar competition and

she sang in the groups Tutti Fruti and Crystal, both led by Maybelline Arends-Croes. When she was older she sang with bands like Oreo, Pride, Dushi Band and at the Crystal Casino.

Returning to Colombia to find her musical roots has been wonderful for Gloria. In her native country she has discovered the richness and folklore of the cumbia and the vallenato, among other rhythms. Together with her musical soul mate Jean Paul Carrasquilla from Barranquilla Gloria has made a CD called 'Fusion' which is a 'homenaje con nuevos ritmos fusionados con un toque de jazz.' (homage to old and new rhythms fused with a touch of jazz). The CD has been cut on Aruba with Martin Buitenweg on guitar.

Aruba International PRO-AM Golf Tournament continues

WEST PUNT – The Aruba Tourism Authority hosted an informal press conference at Tierra del Sol Golf Course to announce the 15th annual Aruba Pro-Am Golf Tournament coming this weekend. Twenty-four teams will participate hailing from 10 countries with the USA, St. Thomas, Holland, Aruba, Curacao, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and Argentina among them.

The international representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority have been preparing for this world class golf event by running "Copa Aruba," a local golf tournament in their respective countries.

The winners of those local tournaments were selected to play here at the Aruba International PRO-AM Golf Tournament, unfolding August 19th to 24th at Tierra del Sol.

The Aruba International Pro-Am tournament born as the Johnny Walker Tournament changed its name 8 years ago when the Aruba Tourism Authority took it over as an international event promotion Aruba as a golf destination. Nevertheless, Johnny Walker and its local distributor, The Aruba Trading Company remained the top sponsor in conjunction with Tropical Bottling, Caribbean Mercantile Bank and Suzuki, offering a car for the winner of a-hole-in-one during the two-day tournament.

Registration will take place on Friday at the club-house, with a shot gun start scheduled for 12:30 on Saturday.

Helping host players during their stay, the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Divi Village and Tierra del Sol's



villa rental department.

Some top Golf Pros are expected to play such as Aaron West from Puerto Rico, Raul Sanz, from Venezuela and Jay Overton from the USA as well as the local pros from Tierra del Sol, Oliver Riding and Adam Williamson and from Divi Links James Kiley.



Drive to the Sunrise side...

Sunday Brunch at Amazing is a truly delicious experience



SAN NICOLAS - Many visitors to the island south east point of the island and they pass through San Nicolas. Now our advice is to make your tour on a Sunday, when you can catch two birds with a stone: there is not much traffic and you can



stop at Amazing Restaurant for a super Sunday Brunch. Located at the entrance of the main street, near the police station, Amazing is a cozy place where many locals come to eat. And if there is a party, a birthday celebration or an anniversary to be celebrated, they go to Amazing for Sunday Brunch. A wide array of choices is on the special menu and you can order any which way, upside down or mixed up. Of course there is unlimited champagne or soft drinks to go with it.

Even the coffee afterwards is included.

The menu is divided into appetizers, omelets and eggs, soup, main attractions and desserts. The appetizers include crab meat salad, smoked salmon, jumbo shrimp cocktail, seafood tempura, mozzarella tomato salad, Caesar salad, shrimp salad, breaded grouper and escargots. The Spanish omelet is an open-faced delight with olives, pepperoni and chorizo; but you can also opt for scrambled eggs or waffles. The soup of the day precedes



the main attractions: filet mignon, chicken Parmesan, peppery beef tenderloin strips, jumbo shrimps, mahi mahi filet, chicken Florentine and salmon fillet. Desserts include cheese cake, Key Lime pie, banana split, Dame Blanche, assorted ice creams and Hershey chocolate cake. It's a steal!

We happened to pass by last Sunday morning and encountered a few very happy groups of people enjoying the Amazing feast.

Highly recommended!

If you cannot make it on a Sunday, Amazing has daily changing theme nights, varying from an All-u-can-eat Ribs night to an All-u-can-Eat Sushi Night on Saturday evenings and a Prime Rib night on Sundays, but its regular menu is not to be sneezed at either. You find it at the Van Zeppenveldstraat 15. The restaurant is open six days a week from 11.30 am till 11 pm and it offers a 10% senior citiz

Don't miss our Plentiful Paella!

A dinner under the Caribbean sky!

Las Ramblas

Tapas & Charcoal Grill

The menu features authentic spanish tapas and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill.

Open from 6.00pm - 10.30pm. Closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.
Reservation recommended
For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154

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SITE Sets a Course to Paradise!

Aruba to Host Society of Incentive and Travel Executives' 2009 International Conference

ORANJESTAD - Aruba is thrilled to announce that the Society of Incentive Travel Executives (SITE) has selected the island paradise as the host country for the 2009 International Conference, set for December 3-6. The event will bring together the top minds in incentive travel, a multi-billion dollar global industry, to one of the Caribbean's most celebrated destinations. Aruba promises to be the "host with the most" as it welcomes hundreds of delegates from around the world for three days of educational sessions, vendor showcases, roundtables, networking events, gala dinners and much more. The 2009 International Conference will be held at the two official host hotels, The Westin Aruba Resort and the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. Securing this significant conference comes at a perfect time for the destination as Aruba is enjoying increased interest from around the globe. Not only has the island recently undergone over \$350 million in upgrades, expansions and renovations across all aspects of the tourism sector, but arrivals from the U.S. in 2007 were also up 3.27% over the previous year. While worldwide arrivals also saw a remarkable increase with an extraordinary 8.56% spike over 2006, with 753,816

visitors from around the world making Aruba their destination of choice in 2007.

"SITE's membership is rich with innovators who greatly influence not only the evolution of the incentive industry, but also the business outcomes of client organizations," said SITE President Padraic Gilligan. "The SITE International Conference is a superlative forum where professionals from around the world gather to share insights that help them achieve professional goals, surpass client expectations, and have a meaningful and positive impact on economies of destination cities around the world."

"We were thrilled to hear of SITE's decision to make Aruba its host location for the 2009 International Conference," said Minister of Tourism and Transportation, Edison Briesen. "The incentive travel industry is an important one for our island and we are looking forward to showcasing the many things that sets Aruba apart from the rest of the Caribbean region throughout the conference. We are confident that SITE's commitment to bringing together the most influential minds in this field, coupled with Aruba's dedication to delivering an unmatched travel experience to all our guests, is a recipe for

success."

These principals of community, leadership and growth guide SITE's vision — as well as its commitment to selecting distinct locales for its own events. Aruba, situated in the southern Caribbean, is a tropical paradise that enjoys year-round near perfect weather, less than 20 inches of rainfall annually, extraordinary hotels and resorts, over 200 incredible international restaurants, and an extremely rich heritage. Arubans, renowned for their warmth and hospitality and known as the friendliest in the Caribbean region, proudly showcase the island's cultural and environmental diversity, and are equally devoted to respecting and preserving the island's pristine marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

"Because Aruba is, without question, one of the top incentive travel destinations in the Caribbean, it is fitting that SITE, the foremost professional association devoted to the incentive travel market, would choose our island as the host for its 2009 International Conference," said Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, managing director for the Aruba Tourism Authority. "The decision makers in the incentive travel industry will experience a successful

event as a result of our strong public/private partnership that makes planning a meeting so much easier and Aruba's well-known hospitality."

"Aruba is ideal for SITE's constituency," said SITE CEO Brenda Anderson. "Sharing experiential knowledge is imperative for incentive and travel professionals who wish to enhance expertise and better understand this worldwide industry. Aruba offers a unique setting; it's a model for promoting economic development with a keen eye toward cultural and environmental sensitivity — both of which are top-of-mind for SITE members and the

organizations they work with to implement programs that drive business success."

"I am really proud of the fact that our entire destination has gotten behind securing the SITE Conference for Aruba," said Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association President and CEO, Rob Smith. "What could be a better investment than bringing the world's professional meeting planners to one destination? Aruba has prepared for this for the last few years, undergoing a half a billion dollars of investment in its resort and meetings facilities and I am confident this will be our day in the sun." □

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New England clam chowder or tossed salad
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and lemon or
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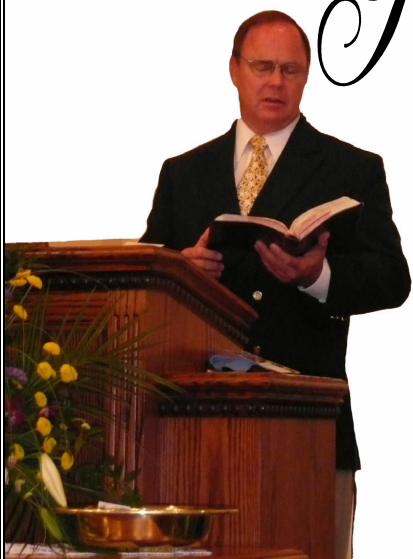
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We would love to have you visit with us!

Apples come back for more Bananas at Moby Dicks



PALM BEACH – Stacy and Ronny Apple enjoyed the best night of their time on Aruba at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant. The Apples have been coming to Aruba for 33 years for their honeymoon and have been returning year after year ever since. They were so surprised to cross paths with Host Lepi, one of their favorite waiters from Talk of the Town over 30 years ago. The couple enjoyed the freshest catches of the day including the mahi mahi and the tuna combined with great appetizers and wine followed by one of the most delicious deserts ever. Moby Dick's has become famous for their



Banana Banana and craved by everyone who tries it. The Apples are pictured with friends from back home joined by Restaurant owner Gilbert Senchi and various friends.



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Grand Cafe Tropical
The place to relax and to Enjoy Jazz Music
with a nice Cigar and Hennessy Cognac

Tuesday, August 25, 2009
starting at 8:00 pm

Happy Hour Prices on Hennessy Cognac.

See you tonight!
Situated at Seaport Market Place



Eugene & Donna Hudon honored at Playa Linda Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at Playa Linda Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years.

Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual

vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title.

The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at Playa Linda Resort they call their home away from



home. Eugene & Donna Hudon were honored as distinguished visitors after coming to Aruba for 10 years

On picture Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Eugene & Donna and also Rosa from Playa Linda Resort

Committee still to deliver its advice on bridge fees

PHILIPSBURG--The Executive Council still has to receive the advice of the committee on the revision of the Simpson Bay Lagoon Bridge fees that took effect on January 1. The fees were put in place to generate revenue that would finance maintenance and loan repayments for the lift deck bridge that allows vessels to enter and leave the lagoon.

The fees, considered exorbitant by the yachting and marine sector, have been blamed for some of the decline facing the sector that is already plagued by

the tough economic times. St. Maarten Marine Trades Association (SMMTA) had petitioned government to consider a review of the fees. Based on this request a committee was put in place to find common ground for the fees between the association and Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority Corporation (SLAC). Commissioner responsible for Maritime Affairs Theo Heyliger, in response to questions posed by DP Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams in Thursday's Island Council meeting, said the advice has to reach

the Executive Council. The advice should cover the rates and structure as well as how SLAC will operate in the future. The advice is expected on the desk of the Executive Council in two weeks. It will be reviewed and a decision will be taken on the way forward. Wescot-Williams urged government to speed up the process of fee regulating because this has been of much concern to SMMTA and the maritime industry as a whole.

The association had described the high fees as a "perfect storm," because

together with the high price of fuel and the economic downturn, it drove captains and boat owners away from St. Maarten. This led to a decline in marine business and numerous other related businesses including sail makers, repairs, provisioning and others. Several vessels that have operated charters or have St. Maarten as a home base have opted to move to the French side to dock in Marina St. Louis where the prices are about a third of what is charged to clear the bridge on the Dutch side. □

Voting uncertainty leads to meeting adjournment

PHILIPSBURG -- The amendments to the statutes of three government-owned companies and a foundation were left hanging in the balance Thursday after Island Council Chairman Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards postponed the voting because of “a lack of quorum.”

Members of the opposition Democratic Party (DP) had left the meeting during an adjournment in protest of what they considered the too-frequent stopping of the meeting.

There is some dispute about the Lt. Governor's decision to suspend the voting, because the Rules of Order do not state that a “quorum” is needed for a vote to take place. When DP leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams informed Richards that her faction was leaving, he had already adjourned the meeting, making her remarks unofficial.

After the meeting resumed, National Alliance Island Councilman Rodolphe Samuel questioned whether the DP “walk out” was recognised and would be noted in the minutes. Richards replied that the notification of absence was not official because it had

been given after the gavel had been struck.

DP Island Councilman Roy Marlin returned to the meeting just before the vote to amend the articles of incorporation of St. Maarten Harbour Group of Companies, St. Maarten Laboratory Services, St. Maarten Telephone Group of Companies and Foundation Cadastre and Mortgages. He requested individual voting and then walked out onto the balcony of the Government Administration Building.

When the individual voting was requested, Roy Marlin was one of six Island Councilmen present in Dr. A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall. The other members were NA Island Councilmen Samuel and Pantophlet, Commissioners William Marlin and Hyacinth Richardson, and independent Island Councilman and Commissioner Theo Heyliger. Based on the Rules of Order, when individual voting is requested, the name of each member signed in for the meeting must be called by the Lt. Governor to give his/her vote. Instead, Richards opted to adjourn the meeting indefinitely.

Commissioner Marlin said, in a statement after the meeting,

that he saw no reason to postpone the voting, because many times in the past when individual voting had been requested, some council members had not been in their seats when their names were called, but had returned after their names were called.

Had the voting taken place and Island Councilman Marlin not been present, the vote would have been voided because only five members, fewer than half of the 11-member council, would have voted on the amendments. The approval of the amendments to bring the companies and foundation in line with the Corporate Governance Law put in place on May 11 would have been deferred until another meeting when another vote could have been taken.

DP ‘Walk Out’

Thursday's meeting, which was a continuation of one that had been adjourned last week, had four adjournments. The first was for an hour to give the Executive Council and its advisors time to prepare answers to questions posed by DP and Samuel. However, a second adjournment of 45 minutes came immediately after the first because more time was needed to complete the answers.

DP members returned to the Legislative Hall at 1:30pm, ready for the meeting to continue. It did, with Commissioner Heyliger giving answers on issues related to Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority Corporation (SLAC). This took only a few minutes, after which Richards again adjourned the meeting to allow Commissioner Marlin time to rejoin the meeting, because he was stuck in traffic. Commissioner Marlin arrived in the hall, but there was another adjournment because he had to confer with advisors.

At this stage, DP Island

Council members Wescot-Williams, Roy Marlin, Buncamper-Molanus and Petrus Leroy de Weever left the meeting. Wescot-Williams informed Richards that the members were fed up with the constant adjournments and were leaving the meeting, but this was all done after the gavel had been struck to adjourn the session, making the announcement unofficial. Exiting the hall, Wescot-Williams said the constant adjournments showed “a total lack of respect” by the present NA/Heyliger coalition government for members of the highest body of the island territory. The Executive Council must have known how much time was needed to prepare the answers and should have been back in the hall in time, she said, adding, “This is totally improper.”

War on country status

Commissioner Marlin told the press, after the meeting was adjourned indefinitely, that DP's walkout had been a “pitiful display.”

“The Democratic Party's walkout and refusal to participate in the vote, is nothing ... but an attempt by the DP, like a group of spoilt brats, to say that ‘if I can't do it, then nobody else can,’” Marlin charged. He added that amending the statutes was an integral part of completing the corporate governance requirement as set forth by the Dutch Government.

By its members' actions, DP has “declared war on St. Maarten becoming a country” because the process to complete the requirements of the law has been stalled, he said. All government-owned companies and foundations were to be compliant with the law by August 1. The three companies and one foundation needed the Island Council's approval to change their statutes to insert that the law

on corporate governance was also applicable.

The commissioner said it was a “sad day” for St. Maarten, because DP, which had always said “country above self,” had put party above country when its members walked out. Adjournments have always been a part of meetings, he said, pointing out that in his days as opposition leader, adjournments had been extended without members even being informed.

Marlin said that when NA had been in opposition, its members had abided by adjournments and other issues to ensure that whatever was needed was done, so country status had never been put in jeopardy. However, DP did not see it fit to make sure everything was in place for compliance.

Frustrating the process

NA Island Councilman Pantophlet said DP was “exemplary in its commitment to frustrate the process of constitutional change and prevent the people of St. Maarten ... from attaining separate status” because its members had chosen to walk out of the meeting instead of representing the people who had elected them.

He said the members had walked out because they realised that their votes were needed for the amendments to pass and that a requirement of the agreement with the Netherlands for country status was that good corporate governance be pursued. “By this kind of behaviour, they have proven that when it comes to good governance they are still lagging behind,” he said.

Like Pantophlet, Samuel said DP should have chosen another issue over which to stage its first walkout, because amending the statutes was another step to country status □

Defer 2010 elections, says Council of State

THE HAGUE--The Council of State in a recent advice has suggested to postpone the 2010 Parliamentary elections in the Netherlands Antilles.

The advice is not public yet, since the Kingdom Council of Ministers still has to meet on the document, but according to Dutch news agency ANP, sources in the Antillean cabinet confirmed that the Council of State advised postponing the elections.

It concerns advice regarding an amendment to the Kingdom Charter in relation to dismantling the Netherlands Antilles country. This dismantling should take place in 2010, whereby Curaçao and St. Maarten attain country status in the Kingdom and Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius become part of the Netherlands as “public entities.”

The Council of State advised the Netherlands Antilles to concentrate on building up the new countries and to put off the Parliamentary elections slated for early 2010. The Central Government announced that it wanted to postpone the elections last week. Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage said then: “Nobody is waiting for elections.”

The Council is the highest advisory organ in the Dutch Kingdom □



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on the menu and they are already well known for our daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work only with fresh and honest

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Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as we have a kids playground and a kids menu to entertain them, so they can enjoy their

dinner as much as you will yours!

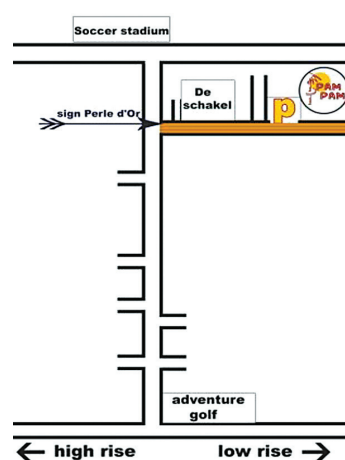
We have entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you

can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly square are open until eleven.

See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

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+(297) 586-3659**

Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café



Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among

other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban

florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone: 5877710 or 5932660

Mulligan's Golf Café' Bar & Restaurant hosts the Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament

Restaurant is a casual-elegant Caribbean restaurant. As the airy and comfortable first stop on the island, with the view overlooking the ninth hole island green, Mulligan's delivered the tropical ambiance and soothing waterfall views the competitors were seeking. The Aruba International PRO-AM Golf Tournament unfolds here August 19th to 24th. The 15th annual tournament counts with twenty-four teams of five, hailing from 10 countries with the USA, St. Thomas, Holland, Aruba, Curacao, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and Argentina among them. The international representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority have been



preparing for this world class golf event by running "Copa Aruba," a local golf tournament in their respective countries. The winners of those local tournaments were selected to play

here at the Aruba International PRO-AM Golf Tournament, at Tierra del Sol. The Aruba International Pro-Am tournament born as the Johnny Walker Tournament changed its

name 8 years ago when the Aruba Tourism Authority took it over as an international event promotion Aruba as a golf destination. Nevertheless, Johnny Walker and its local distributor, The Aruba Trading Company remained the top sponsor in conjunction with Tropical Bottling, Caribbean Mercantile Bank and Suzuki, offering a car for the winner of a hole-in-one during the two-day tournament. Registration took place on Friday at the club-house, with a shot gun start scheduled for 12:30 on Saturday. Helping host players during their stay, the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Divi Village and Tierra del Sol's villa rental department. Some top Golf Pros are



Welcome to the Golf Teams from Argentina, Holland, Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia.

Appetizers

Caesar salad,
Romaine lettuce with Parmesan, bacon and garlic croutons

Or

Bisque,
Creamy shellfish soup with shrimp and cream

Main courses

Teriyaki beef,
Marinated beef skewer, onions, sweet peppers and rice

Or

Mahi mahi,
Mahi mahi fillet, tomato-cilantro relish, stir fried vegetables, steamed rice and balsamic dressing

Dessert

Cheese cake,
Cheese cake with marinated red fruits and vanilla ice cream and chocolate shavings

Divi Links – The clubhouse at Divi Link, home of Mulligan's Golf Café' Bar & Restaurant hosted an international group of golf players and members of the press, for the welcome party for all the Aruba Pro-

Am invited teams. The party was organized by the representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority and hosted by Divi's Managing Director Alex Nieuwmeyer. Mulligan's Golf Café' Bar &



"Early Bird: daily 5-7pm
3-course dinner
for \$29.75 per person"

Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

PALM BEACH – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

Early Bird

Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

Opening hours

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to www.papillonaruba.com.

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.

Papillon RESTAURANT

Kitchen open every day from 5pm till 10.30pm. Early Bird from 5pm till 7pm. All major credit cards accepted. Reservations recommended. Papillon Restaurant @ The Village (across from Radisson), J.E. Irausquin Blvd 348-A, Palm Beach Tel: 586 5400 Email: reservations@papillonaruba.com Internet: www.papillonaruba.com



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with Happy Hour from 6 to 8pm



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At Occidental Grand Resort

Scott and Kristin say "I Do" at Sunset



PALM BEACH-Scott Dierkes and Kristin Signorelli met over three years ago at Tellers Chophouse on Long Island. It was love at first sight; Scott knew he met the love of his



life and knew the time had come to ask for her hand in marriage. Scott proposed on a romantic island vacation in St. Lucia on April 10, 2008 at sunset.

The love birds were married in sunny Aruba at sunset on August 12, 2009 at the prestigious Occidental Grand Resort. A romantic sermon was delivered by Reverend Robert Gibson and witnessed by 30 family and friends. The wedding was coordinated by Eliana of Occidental who detailed the wedding to perfection.

Bella Aruba Photography captured the newlyweds with a "Once In a Lifetime photo shoot."

Immediately following the bridal party was announced and Mr. & Mrs. Dierkes made the grand entrance onto the dance floor and danced their first song as husband and wife.

The beach area was transformed into magnificent wedding under the stars with



DJ Tino jamming to the beat of the hottest hits.

The newly weds would like to give a special thank you to their families; the Signorelli's and the Esposito's, for all of their love and support. In addition, they would also like to thank their loved ones; the O'brien's, Lynch's, Lukans, Stewart's, Avitabile's and Ketcher's for making their wedding in paradise a dream come true! □

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



Schools fight families over autism service dogs

By LINDSEY TANNER,
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Like seeing-eye dogs for the blind, trained dogs are now being used to help autistic children deal with their disabilities. But some schools want to keep the animals out, and families are fighting back.

Two autistic elementary school students recently won court orders in Illinois allowing their dogs to accompany them to school. Their lawsuits follow others in California and Pennsylvania over schools' refusal to allow dogs that parents say calm their children, ease transitions and even keep the kids from running into traffic.

At issue is whether the dogs are true "service dogs"—essential to managing a disability—or simply companions that provide comfort.

School districts say they are not discriminating, just drawing the line to protect the safety and health of other students who may be allergic or scared of dogs.

"The school district has 650 students, not just one. So we have to balance," said Brandon Wright, attorney for the Villa Grove district in central Illinois, which objected to 6-year-old Kaleb Drew's plan to bring his yellow Labrador retriever, Chewey, to school.

Kaleb's family won a judge's order in July allowing the dog to come to class until a trial, set to start Nov. 10. That means when Kaleb starts his first full day of first grade Monday, Chewey will be by his side.

Service dogs have long been used by the blind, but training them to help those with autism is relatively new. While there's little research on how these animals affect autistic children, families like Kaleb's say they have seen marked improvement. And the support group Autism Speaks includes a list of dog-training groups among resources on its Web site.

Autism is a developmental disorder that involves behaviors such as poor eye contact, trouble communicating and repetitive movements such as rocking or hand-flapping. Those with the disorder are prone to outbursts and may have trouble with changes in their environment.

The dogs are trained to be a calming influence, providing a constant between home, school and other new places. Sometimes, as in Kaleb's case, the dogs are tethered to children to prevent them from running off in dangerous situations.

"It's done so much more than we thought it could," said Kaleb's mother, Nichelle

Drew. "We want Kaleb to be able to experience more of life," and the dog has helped him do that, she said.

Chewey does not react when Kaleb "throws a fit" during times of transition from one activity to another, which calms him much more quickly, Drew said.

The tether fitted around Kaleb's waist helps the dog stop Kaleb from running into traffic at pickup time, as he is prone to do.

Under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, "a person with autism would be considered a person with a disability in nearly all cases, and a service animal is any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to someone with a disability," said Alejandro Miyar, a spokesman for the Department of Justice. Miyar declined comment on specific cases but said schools are required to make accommodations for disabled students to use a service animal. Illinois is among several states with similar laws.

Schools, though, can argue that the animals do not provide a functional service. Wright said Kaleb's school already provides him with adequate special services. Officials believe Chewey is more of a



Nichelle Drew, center, leaves Villa Grove Elementary School in Villa Grove, Ill., with her son Kaleb, 6, and his autism service dog, Chewey, after attending a half day of school on Friday, Aug. 21, 2009. Like seeing-eye dogs for the blind, trained dogs are now being used to help autistic children deal with their disabilities. But some schools want to keep the animals out, and families are fighting back.

(AP Photo/Robin Scholz)

companion or comfort dog, not a true service dog.

Elizabeth Emken, vice president of government relations for Autism Speaks, said her 17-year-old autistic son has used a service dog for about two years.

Emken said the dog helps control her son's pacing and circling, but the family opted against allowing the boy to take the dog to school because she did not know if he would be able to manage the dog effectively.

"Personally, I can see the pros and cons" of allowing the animals in schools, Emken said, though she believes schools should not ban the assistance.

Families of autistic kids

elsewhere have fought similar battles, including recent cases in Manteca, Calif., about 70 miles northeast of San Francisco, and North Franklin Township, Pa., near Pittsburgh.

And cases involving other disabilities, including deafness and diabetes, have cropped up in other states.

On Thursday, a judge sided with a family in Columbia, near St. Louis, that sued over their school district's unwillingness to allow an autism service dog in a special education pre-kindergarten classroom.

Still, 5-year-old Carter Kalbfleisch will not have the dog with him when he starts classes Monday. □

No red flags yet in swine flu vaccine tests

By MIKE STOBBE,
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — No "red flags" have been reported so far in tests of the new swine flu vaccine, U.S. health officials said Friday.

Volunteers in the first of five studies of the vaccine got their first shots in the last two weeks, and so far no one has reported symptoms worse than a sore and swollen arm, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"There are no red flags regarding safety," said Fauci, at a Friday news conference.

That encouraged health officials to go forward this week with experiments testing the vaccine in children ages 6 months to 17 years, Fauci

added.

Additional research is planned for how well the vaccine performs in pregnant women. The government expects that eventually more than 4,500 people will take part in vaccine studies.

Data on how well the vaccine protects against swine flu are not expected until next month, Fauci said.

Around 50 million doses of vaccine could be available to the public by mid-October.

Last month, a government advisory committee recommended that in case of limited supplies, vaccinations should go first to certain priority groups, including pregnant women, health care workers, children six months and older, parents of infants,

and non-elderly adults with high-risk medical conditions.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention formally adopted those recommendations this week, a CDC official said.

In the United States, nearly 8,000 people with swine flu have been hospitalized and 522 have died since the virus was first seen in April. The CDC estimates that more than 1 million people in the U.S. have been sickened by the virus, but most did not get sick enough to seek medical help or a diagnosis involving lab tests.

Flu continues to spread in the United States, which is unusual for summer. And nearly every case of flu that's occurring right now is swine flu and not



Handout image shows turkeys inside a hatchery at the processing unit of a turkey plant in La Calera city, about 125 km (78 miles) south of Santiago, August 21, 2009. The outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus among turkeys in Chile should not be a cause for alarm as animal cases remain minor compared to the pandemic facing humans, the World Organisation for Animal Health said on Friday.

the seasonal variety people are more familiar with.

But cases are becoming less common, and only Alaska and Maine have widespread cases right now, said Dr. Jay Butler

of the CDC. New infections also seem to be declining in South America and parts of Australia — areas where flu is generally more common this time of year, he said. □

J.M. Smucker fiscal 1Q earnings top expectations



FILE - In this June 4, 2008 file photo, a jar of Smucker's strawberry preserves, left, appears with a container of Folgers instant coffee, in Walpole, Mass. J.M. Smucker Co., maker of jams, jellies and Jif peanut butter, said Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, its fiscal first-quarter profit more than doubled, mostly on increased sales from last year's Folgers acquisition.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne, file)

By **ASHLEY M. HEHER**,
AP Retail Writer

CHICAGO — J.M. Smucker Co. said Friday its fiscal first-quarter profit more than doubled and beat expectations, mostly because of increased sales from last year's acquisition of Folgers coffee.

The maker of jams, jellies and Jif peanut butter also backed its yearly outlook and said it expects profits at the higher end of its forecast.

The company said sales in its consumer retail division — a unit that sells grocery store mainstays — rose 6 percent, thanks to stronger sales of Jif peanut butter, jam, jelly and Hungry Jack pancakes. But as consumers embraced cooking and even the traditional do-it-yourself sandwiches, they also bought fewer Uncrustables, pre-made frozen, crustless peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. "We're off to a strong start this year," Executive Chairman and Co-CEO Tim Smucker said in a statement. Smucker said it earned \$98.1 million, or 83 cents per share, in the three months that ended July 31. That's up from \$42.3 million, or 77

cents per share, during the same period last year.

Excluding one-time costs that amounted to 9 cents per share, the company earned 92 cents per share — well above Wall Street estimates. Revenue soared 58 percent to \$1.05 billion, up from \$663.7 million last year. Most of that gain came the Folgers coffee business, which the Orrville, Ohio-based food maker purchased from Procter & Gamble Co. last year in a \$3 billion deal.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected Smucker to earn 80 cents a share on revenue of \$1.04 billion. Meanwhile, even though consumers bought more baking products, flour and Crisco oil during the period, sales in that unit dipped 2 percent because of price cuts and discounts. Merger and integration costs rose sharply to \$16.5 million from \$3.4 million a year ago because of the Folgers deal. Also Friday, Smucker said it continues to expect a full-year profit between \$3.65 and \$3.80. That estimate excludes merger and integration costs that are expected to be between 17 cents and 19

cents per share. Analysts earned \$266 million, or \$4.55 billion. expect the company to earn \$3.12 per share. Smucker Shares of the company rose \$3.76 per share for the year. forecast revenue around \$2.22, or 4.3 percent, to close Last year, the company \$4.5 billion. Analysts predict at \$54.10 Friday. □

Failed banks mount; small Ga bank shut

By **MARCY GORDON**,
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — The toll of failed banks is mounting, with 78 institutions closed by regulators so far this year — the most since 1992 at the height of the savings-and-loan crisis. The latest came Friday with the seizure of ebank, a small bank in Atlanta, with \$143 million in assets and \$130 million in deposits as of July 10. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was appointed receiver of the failed bank. Stearns Bank, based in St. Cloud, Minn., has agreed to assume its deposits and assets, the FDIC said.

ebank's lone office in Atlanta will reopen Monday as a branch of Stearns Bank. The failure of ebank is expected to cost the deposit insurance fund an estimated \$63 million.

In contrast to the big bank failures early in the financial crisis, many of the recently shuttered banks were undone not by exotic mortgage products but by garden-variety loans. At the same time, a knot of big, complex banks collapsing in recent months is sapping billions from the federal deposit insurance fund that insures regular accounts up to \$250,000, spurring regulators to court potential buyers from the world of private investment.

The FDIC last week seized Colonial BancGroup Inc., a big lender in real estate development, and sold its \$20 billion in deposits, 346 branches in five states and about \$22 billion of its assets to BB&T Corp.

It was the biggest bank failure so far this year, and the sixth-largest in U.S. history, expected to cost the insurance fund \$2.8 billion.

While losses on home mortgages may be leveling off, delinquencies on commercial real estate loans remain a hot spot of potential trouble, experts say. Many regional banks like Montgomery, Ala.-based Colonial hold large numbers of them. Many companies have shut down in the recession, vacating shopping malls and office buildings financed by the loans.

Other big banks are teetering and two have said they expect to be closed: Guaranty Financial Group Inc., a Texas-based company with around \$15 billion in assets that racked up losses on loans to homebuilders and borrowers in California, and Corus Bankshares Inc., a \$7 billion Chicago lender to condominium, office and hotel projects. Austin-based Guaranty Financial said in a

statement provided Thursday: "We are open for business. We continue to work with our regulators. We are focused on providing the best customer service possible and believe we can avoid any disruptions to our customers." The FDIC is "only allowing them to continue to flat-line because it's hoping for some sort of orderly resolution that doesn't deepen" the hole in the insurance fund even more, said Karen Shaw Petrou, managing partner of Federal Financial Analytics in Washington. The FDIC expects bank failures will cost the fund around \$70 billion through 2013. The fund stood at \$13 billion — its lowest level since 1993 — at the end of March. It has slipped to 0.27 percent of total insured deposits, below the minimum mandated by Congress of 1.15 percent.

The costliest failure was the July 2008 seizure of big California lender IndyMac Bank, on which the fund is estimated to have lost \$10.7 billion.

Among the 77 banks closed so far this year — compared with 25 last year and three in all of 2007 — were a stream of smaller institutions, many felled by losses on ordinary loans amid the souring economy, tumbling home prices and spiking unemployment. Their business was a far cry from the complex securities favored by Wall Street investment banks that precipitated the financial meltdown.

The average cost to the fund of a bank failure over the past 19 months has run higher than during the savings-and-loan debacle. That's partly due to smaller banks having higher resolution costs than larger ones, and because the steep decline in home prices that set off the current distress wasn't a factor in the earlier crisis, said Jim Wigand, deputy director of resolutions and receiverships at the FDIC.

Because of the tumble in prices, the loss rates on home loans and construction and development loans were higher for banks, with "a domino effect" on related securities, Wigand said.

Many of the smaller banks that failed in the recent run shared common attributes: rapid growth, heavy concentration of brokered deposits sold by securities firms to customers outside the bank's local area, and heavy lending in "hot markets" like Arizona, California, Florida and Nevada, noted Bert Ely, a banking consultant based in Alexandria, Va. □

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Stocks jump as Bernanke says economy near recovery

By SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writer

NEWYORK—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said what investors wanted to hear, that the economy is indeed on the verge of recovery, and they responded with a rally that sent the major indexes to new highs for the year.

The Dow Jones industrials shot up 155 points Friday, closing above 9,500 for the first time since Nov. 4, and all the big indexes finished with gains of more than 1.5 percent. Meanwhile, Treasury prices tumbled, pushing yields sharply higher, as investors no longer felt they needed the safety of government debt.

The stock market's gains were broad, reaching across all industries, but the biggest jumps came from energy, industrial and material stocks as oil and commodities prices soared. Bank stocks also rose sharply. Just nine days after the Fed declared the economy to be "leveling out" rather than contracting, Bernanke went further, saying, "the prospects for a return to growth in the near term appear good." Speaking at an annual Fed conference in Wyoming, Bernanke did warn that lending is not back to normal, and that the difficulty consumers and businesses are having obtaining loans will be a challenge. But his tone was the most optimistic it has been since the start of the financial crisis. A bigger-than-expected jump in home sales also gave stocks a boost and helped send bonds lower. The National

Association of Realtors said sales of existing homes rose 7.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.24 million in July, from a pace of 4.89 million in June.

It was the fourth straight monthly increase and the highest level of sales since August 2007. The rise in sales came amid a sharp decline in home prices. The day's news ended a week of erratic trading on Wall Street. Investors have been struggling with concerns about consumer spending, but the combination of Bernanke's remarks and the home sales data pulled stocks out of the doldrums. Still, while Bernanke's positive assessment on the economy was encouraging, the market's challenges, including rising unemployment and sluggish consumer spending, are certainly far from over. The market appears to be on an upward trajectory, but analysts cautioned that stocks will likely bounce around through at least the rest of the summer. "The news isn't going to be all good from here on out," said Jordan Smyth, managing director at Edgemoor Investment Advisors in Bethesda, Md.

The Dow rose 155.91, or 1.7 percent, to 9,505.96. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 18.76, or 1.9 percent, to 1,026.13, its highest close since Oct. 6. And the Nasdaq composite index rose 31.68, or 1.6 percent, to 2,020.90, reaching its highest close since Oct. 1.

For the week, the Dow rose 2.0

percent, the S&P 500 gained 2.2 percent, and the Nasdaq added 1.8 percent.

About four stocks rose for every one that fell Friday on the New York Stock Exchange where consolidated volume came to 5.88 billion shares, up from Thursday's 5 billion.

Bond prices tumbled. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, jumped to 3.56 percent, from 3.44 percent late Thursday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 12.83, or 2.3 percent, to 581.51.

In other signs of investors' growing confidence in the economy, oil prices touched their highest point of the year on hopes that energy demand will soon pick up. After briefly nearly \$75, light, sweet crude for October delivery rose 98 cents to settle at \$73.89 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

And the dollar, which, like Treasuries, is considered a safe-haven asset, tumbled against other major currencies.

While Bernanke's comments were clearly reassuring for the stock market, investors could quickly lose their optimism if one of their greatest concerns, consumer spending, shows more signs of weakness. The Fed's upbeat comments last week set off a rally that quickly stalled after a weak reading on consumer sentiment.

Next week, investors will get two key reports on consumer confidence that, if worse than expected, could easily upset



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, August 3, 2009.

the market's gains.

"We're not past the volatile stages of the market," said Lowell Pratt, president of The Burney Co., an equity management firm.

As job losses continue to mount, it will be difficult for consumers to feel comfortable about spending freely.

"Consumer spending normally is the driver of recoveries at the beginning," said Bob Baur, chief global economist at Principal Global Investors. "That's not happening this time."

"At some point, the market is going to ask to see more than just mixed data," he said. "It's going to want to see some real jobs produced and an end to job losses and some validation that the consumer isn't going to stay in a slump."

Analysts have long warned of an eventual decline in stocks after the market's massive jump since early March, during which major indexes have risen more than 40

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid percent off of 12-year lows. But the market has yet to see a significant pullback.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 1.4 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 2.0 percent, Germany's DAX index jumped 2.9 percent, and France's CAC-40 soared 3.2 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed the week up 184.56, or 2.0 percent, at 9,505.96. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 22.04, or 2.2 percent, to 1,026.13. The Nasdaq composite index rose 35.38, or 1.8 percent, to 2,020.90.

The Russell 2000 index, which tracks the performance of small company stocks, rose 17.61, or 3.1 percent, for the week to 581.51. The Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index — which measures nearly all U.S.-based companies — ended at 10,463.53, up 223.01, or 2.2 percent, for the week. A year ago, the index was at 13,185.26. □

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Under burqas, Afghan women voted in prote

By the Monitor's Editorial Board

Whether American troops can leave Afghanistan sooner rather than later depends on democracy's gains in that war-ravaged country – and the gains of women, too.

Thursday's elections for president and local councils were such a gain – seen especially in the turnout of women to vote in defiance of Taliban threats of retaliation. In some places, women were 60 percent of voters – predictable in part because women far outnumber men in voter registration in many regions – although their presence at voting booths in the Taliban-infested south was low. Why such a large female turnout in some areas despite a low turnout overall?

Having lived under Taliban rule until the 2001 US invasion – and now facing a Taliban resurgence – women in Afghanistan are eager to keep what few rights they now have.

As in many Muslim countries, advances for Afghan women are critical to preventing a takeover by Islamic terrorists or to reduce their backward influence. They deserve the world's support, such as the threefold increase in US aid – to \$250 million – for Afghan women and girls promised by the Obama administration.

The US military, too, has made a point of dispatching female soldiers to talk to women in their homes. "It is important for the women of Afghanistan to know we are here to listen and help them," said one female marine.

Just seeing US women on troop patrol in boots and uniform is sure to have an impact. During the American Occupation of Japan after World War II, Japanese women were emboldened to raise their status in part by seeing American women driving cars.

But it is the few Afghan women who have gained political prominence who

are making the most difference. Two of the 41 presidential candidates were women, and a record number of women ran for provincial councils. (Official results are not due until September.) By law, a quarter of parliament must be women. One leading male presidential candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, showed up to vote with his wife – quite a surprise in a society that segregates voters by their gender. "Men and women in this country have a responsibility and it's the destiny of everybody, not just men in this country," Dr. Abdullah told the Monitor.

One foreign female reporter, after asking an Afghan woman why she voted for President Hamid Karzai, was told: "Because he is a liberal. Without him, you wouldn't be here without a burqa." Millions of Afghan girls can now go to primary school, although few go on to high school and the Taliban is burning down many schools for girls. In April, a prominent women's activist, Sitara Achikzai, was murdered, presumably by the Taliban. The mixed and precarious gains for women in Afghanistan were particularly threatened in July by a law approved by Mr. Karzai and which brought protests by Afghan women. The law, which was specified for only the country's minority Shiites, essentially allows wives to be treated as property by their husbands – despite a Constitution that calls for gender equality. One provision allows husbands to deny food or money to a wife if she does not provide sex.

Democracy and rights have a long way to go in a country with deep-rooted traditions in a tribal, patriarchal culture. This election, the second since the 2001 ouster of the Taliban, is only a step down a long path, one aided by the presence of US and other NATO forces. □



AMERICA: A LOT DIFFERENT, A LOT BETTER?

By Richard Reeves

LOS ANGELES -- A year ago, my wife and I went to her physician's office here and the doctor began: "So, I understand you to want to talk about end-of-life issues."

No!!!! There was a mistake in my wife's records. Happens all the time, but that did not make it less frightening. Fear is always a passenger when hospitals and health are the destination.

But of course we have talked about such things between ourselves: burial or cremation, grave sites, the children and grandchildren, last wills and testaments, "living wills," hospices, pain medication, extraordinary measures to prolong life. It is part of the dialogue of family and health care. So I have real contempt for the people who think they can manipulate the current national debate with stupid, if somewhat effective, talk of fear itself, of "death panels," of Nazis.

Some of them are just stupid -- they can be forgiven for that -- people who do not understand Medicare is a government program. Some are selfish or cautious, many of them old people who understand very well that Medicare is a good deal, and they don't want to share the government's patronage with others. That motivation is certainly shared by some of the 75 percent of Americans who believe they have satisfactory health insurance (whether or not that is true) and are worried that they will be the losers if insurance is provided in one way or another to the other 25 percent.

As they wave flags and shout at congressmen, I have no doubt they love their country. I just wish they had more faith in it. The people running the country politically are not trying to kill old people; they are trying, in their very political way, to move us a little closer to life, liberty and the pursuit of

happiness. Health care is a big part of that.

Having said all that, I don't think the roar of the crowd is about health care at all. It is about change. It is, to quote the current president, about change we can believe in -- or not believe in.

Change and fear are synonyms for many people. Many have lost too much hope and even more optimism, the important parts of American exceptionalism, particularly many old enough to buy the "government is the enemy" lines quoted by an older president. Government may not be perfect, but those of us who have been spending more time around the health care system than we ever wanted to, learning things we never wanted to know, know the United States government is more fair and much easier to deal with than insurance companies. Many of the people afraid of health care reform, and the politicians pandering to their fears, long for good old days that never were, days when, not incidentally, they were younger and healthier and more optimistic. I think often of the great movie "Atlantic City," when an aging hustler played by Burt Lancaster is complaining constantly to a younger crook about how much better things used to be. They turn a corner, the young guy says, "Wow, look at that ocean." Lancaster says, "You should have seen it in the old days."

We live, happily I'd say, in a time of change. Life is better, not least because advances in medical science have extended vigorous middle age. Are we ready to give up antibiotics and the 36 hours of Cialis? And the president we chose, rather enthusiastically, most of us, could not be more different than the old days. That scares many people, some so much that they want to walk around with assault weapons to save America from itself. □

Jackson's nephew testifies at hearing



FILE - In this March 17, 2005 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

(AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant, file)

By LINDA DEUTSCH,
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's nephew says his uncle was a consummate perfectionist who was concerned about his legacy.

Taj Jackson's testimony at a hearing on Friday was meant to bolster his grandmother's opposition to a proposed exhibition of the King of Pop's memorabilia. The 36-year-old said his uncle had his own plans for displaying artifacts that he collected at his Neverland Estate.

Concert promoter AEG Live and the current administrators of Michael Jackson's estate have proposed a three-city exhibition of the singer's belongings, which would open in conjunction with the release of a movie based on his final rehearsals for his "This is It" tour.

A judge is scheduled to rule later Friday

on whether the exhibition goes forward. Katherine Jackson's attorneys have opposed the exhibition because they say it should have been competitively bid and the estate should have a larger cut of the proceeds than the negotiated 50-50 split with AEG.

Taj Jackson was one of several witnesses called by Katherine Jackson's attorneys, but the only one who was allowed to testify in public. Other witnesses included an accountant, an attorney and one of the estate's executors, John Branca.

Their testimony was kept private because it included details of the proposed finances of the exhibition.

Taj Jackson said he worked for his uncle for the last year of his life, doing "whatever he wanted me to help him with." He said the singer did not trust many people, but did trust him.

"I loved my uncle so much and I just

want to do right by him," the younger Jackson said as he took the stand. "We were very close to my uncle. He was a genius obviously."

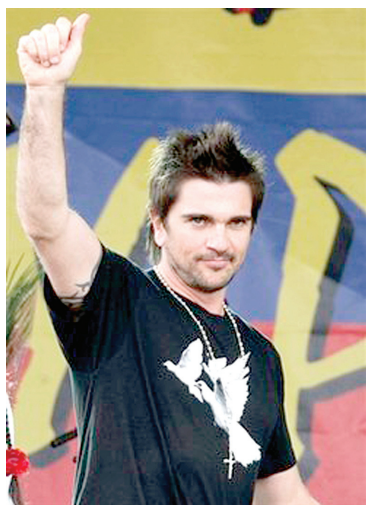
To show the depth of their connection, Taj Jackson said that as children he and his siblings loved Transformers toys. "He got the idea for 'Moonwalk' from that, he told us."

Taj Jackson said he never attended any of the "This is It" rehearsals because "we always wanted to be surprised." He said he thought that his uncle would have been very protective of the footage shot at those rehearsals.

He also said Michael Jackson had his own plans for displaying his memorabilia.

"At Neverland, he had a certain section for memorabilia and he had a plan for something grandiose," he said. Taj Jackson gave no details about what that might be.

Juanes' manager: Cuba concert to go on as planned



FILE - In this July 20, 2008 file photo, Colombian singer Juanes performs near the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Sunday, July 20, 2008.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori, file)

By DAMIAN GRASS,
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — The business manager of Latin pop singer Juanes said the "Peace Without Borders" concert will go on as planned in Havana despite threatening messages the singer received recently on his Twitter account.

"The concert is still on, and Juanes is maintaining a positive attitude throughout all of this," Fernan Martinez Maecha told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Friday.

The Colombian rocker has come under fire from some Cuban-Americans in Miami

who contend that the Sept. 20 concert endorses the Communist-led government of Fidel and Raul Castro.

In a police report dated Aug. 15, Juanes said that someone sent him a message on Twitter, which said, among other things, "I hate what you are saying but you will die for defending your right to say it."

Maecha also told Key Biscayne Police that he had "experienced hostility" from some co-workers regarding the show and had even been labeled a "communist."

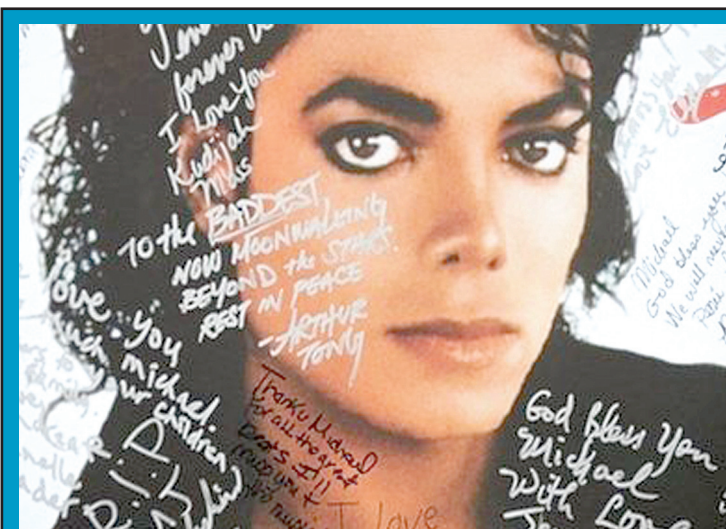
The report said that Juanes — whose real name is Juan Esteban Aristizabal — considered canceling the concert and cited "fears for his safety as well as his family." "He was acting out like any other husband or father would do in order to protect his family," Maecha said. Police have said they are taking the threats seriously and are keeping a watch on both Juanes and Maecha's homes. Both live in Key Biscayne, an exclusive island enclave southeast of Miami's downtown.

Maecha said both men were grateful for the police action.

He also compared the visit to Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba in January 1998.

"There is absolutely nothing political about this show, and like Pope John Paul II who held a service of peace for millions of Cubans ... years ago, Juanes' mission is to do the same, but through his music," Maecha said.

Event promoters insist the Havana concert will have no ideological overtones, even if it is being staged in Havana's Revolution Plaza — with its famed homage to fallen revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara on the side of a building roughly half a dozen stories tall. Among the other acts scheduled to perform are Cuban folk legend Silvio Rodriguez and Cuban salsa stars Los Van Van. The Grammy-winning Juanes is known for his social activism. His first "Peace Without Borders" concert in March 2008 drew tens of thousands to the border between Venezuela and Colombia when tensions were high over a Colombian commando raid into neighboring Ecuador that killed a leading rebel commander. □



A poster of Michael Jackson is covered with messages from fans in California in July 2009. Top Bollywood stars are to pay tribute to the late US singer Michael Jackson with a music video to be aired on what would have been his 51st birthday, a report said Thursday.

(AFP/File/Robyn Beck)

DEA raids Beverly Hills pharmacy in Jackson probe

LOS ANGELES — Federal drug agents have raided a Beverly Hills pharmacy as part of the ongoing investigation into Michael Jackson's death.

Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Jose Martinez says agents were serving a warrant Friday at the Mickey Fine Pharmacy & Grill, seeking evidence of improper dispensing of controlled substances.

The pharmacy sued Jackson in January of 2007, claiming the singer owed more than \$100,000 for prescription drugs over the previous two years. The matter was quickly resolved, and Jackson's spokeswoman at the time said it was related to the administration of the singer's finances. Friday's raid comes a week after authorities raided a Nevada pharmacy where Dr. Conrad Murray, the doctor who was with Jackson when he died, bought the anesthetic propofol.

Authorities have said Murray administered the drug to Jackson in the hours before his death and is the focus of a manslaughter investigation. No charges have been filed and the cause of Jackson's death has not been made public. □

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slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

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Muted commemoration as Hawaii turns 50 as a state

MARK NIESSE

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii welcomed its entry as the 50th state with a new postage stamp Friday but independence supporters marked the day with passionate protests. State leaders called Friday's events a statehood "commemoration" rather than a "celebration" out of respect to Native Hawaiians and their unresolved claims since the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom.

A few hundred Native Hawaiians marched through the street of downtown Honolulu with an effigy of a 15-foot Uncle Sam, a character seen as a symbol for the U.S. government. They chanted in Hawaiian, blew on conch shells, waved ti leaves and yelled, "We are not Americans! We want our country back!" "Genocide" and "imperialist" were written across cardboard machine guns that some protesters carried.

At the end of the march, protesters knocked off Uncle Sam's hat, which contained a U.S. flag from which they cut out a star that represented Hawaii. They held up the burning star to a crowd yelling "freedom."

"We were never the 50th state," said Kaleo Farias, one of protesters that cut the U.S. flag. "It was an illusion, fabrication, something that was told to us that never happened. ... We're not part of the United States."

The events commemorating Hawaii's 1959 admission into the union have been light on flag-waving and parades. Many events in Honolulu have focused on the state's

economic future with panel discussions focused on tourism, alternative energy and Hawaiian rights.

Outside the state, however, Hawaii statehood was being marked as a cause for celebration with one of the more elaborate displays taking place Friday in New York City's Times Square where dancers dressed in traditional Hawaiian costumes and taught people how to Hula dance.

Inside the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu, the official statehood events highlighted Hawaii as a model for diversity while attempting to dispel misconceptions of the islands as an exotic location separate from the rest of the country.

Outside the convention center, protesters who would rather see Hawaii's independence restored staged a march and rally. They argue that Hawaii's statehood was never legal and that the islands should return to its status as a sovereign nation.

President Barack Obama, who was born in the state, signed a proclamation marking the anniversary and said that in his youth he learned from Hawaii's diversity and how different cultures, blended together into one population, were made stronger by their shared sense of community.

The proclamation said: "The Aloha Spirit of Hawaii offers hope and opportunity for all Americans."

The postage stamp, available nationwide Friday, shows a painting of a longboard surfer and two paddlers in an outrigger canoe. □



Pastor Sue Sprowls, center, of Ann Arbor, Mich., speaks in front of other voting members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) convention of Friday Aug. 21, 2009 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Lutherans to allow sexually active gays as clergy

PATRICK CONDON

Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The nation's largest Lutheran denomination took openly gay clergy more fully into its fold Friday, as leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to lift a ban that prohibited sexually active gay and lesbian people from serving as ministers.

Continued on Page B5



Afghan Presidential candidate and former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah, left, shake hands with a group of elders from Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman province during a meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan on Saturday, Aug 8, 2009. Afghan President Hamid Karzai was long seen as the inevitable winner, but Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister, has emerged as Karzai's top challenger and appears to have closed at least part of the gap with a campaign focusing on government mismanagement, corruption and rising violence.

Associated Press

Karzai, Abdullah both claim lead in Afghan vote

Read Page B6

AP sources: Report reveals CIA mock executions

By PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The CIA's internal investigator found that agency interrogators conducted mock executions of terror suspects and in one case threatened a detainee suspected in the USS Cole bombing with a gun and power drill, congressional officials said late Friday.

The disclosure is contained in a 2004 report by the CIA's inspector general, which has kept secret and is to be released next week, two officials told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the report has not yet been cleared for release.

The report's findings were first reported by Newsweek on its Web site Friday night.

In one case, interrogators brought a gun and power drill into a session with suspected Cole bomber Abd al Rahim al-Nashiri, the report says. The suicide bombing of the warship USS Cole killed 17 U.S. sailors in Yemen in 2000.

In another episode, a gunshot was fired in a room next to a detainee to make the prisoner believe another suspect had

been killed, according to the report, which a federal judge has ordered to be made public Monday in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Nashiri was one of three CIA prisoners subjected to waterboarding, a brutal interrogation technique that simulates drowning that was among 10 techniques approved by the Bush administration's Justice Department in 2002. President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have denounced waterboarding as torture.

"The CIA in no way endorsed behavior_ no matter how infrequent_ that went beyond formal guidance," said agency spokesman Paul Gimigliano. He declined to comment on the contents of the IG report. Threatening a prisoner with death violates U.S. anti-torture laws.

Attorney General Eric Holder is considering whether to appoint a criminal prosecutor to investigate the Bush administration's interrogation practices, a controversial move that would run counter to President Barack Obama's wishes to leave the issue in the



In this May 14, 2009 file photo, reviewed by the U.S. military, Guantanamo detainees pray before dawn near a fence of razor-wire, inside Camp 4 detention facility at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base, Cuba. The Obama administration is looking at creating a courtroom-within-a-prison complex in the U.S. to house suspected terrorists, combining military and civilian detention facilities at a single maximum-security prison.

past.

Gimigliano said the career prosecutors at the Justice Department have reviewed the report to determine if any laws were broken and whether the interrogators should be prosecuted. "Professionals in the Department of Justice decided if and when to pursue prosecution," he said. "That's how the system was supposed to work, and that's how it did work."

Just one CIA contract interrogator, David Passaro, has been prosecuted. He was found guilty in 2007 in the beating death of a prisoner in Afghanistan.

The Los Angeles Times reported last week that a CIA operative brought a gun into an interrogation booth to force a detainee to talk.

The IG review was completed in May 2004. The ACLU has sought its release since then. It was expected to be released earlier this year but was delayed by government request.

The IG review cast doubt on the effectiveness of the harsh interrogation methods employed by CIA interrogators, according to quotes from the report that were contained in Bush-era Justice Department memos declassified this spring. It says no attacks were averted by information obtained using harsh interrogation methods. The CIA detained and interrogated 94 terrorist suspects; 28 were subjected to harsh methods. Of those three were waterboarded, according to government documents made public earlier this year.

Associated Press

But former CIA Director Michael Hayden said this week at a panel discussion in Washington that the review also credits the harsh interrogation with yielding information on al-Qaida's basic infrastructure, which in turn allowed the CIA to fight the organization behind the 9/11 hijackings.

John L. Helgeson, the now-retired CIA inspector who spearheaded the investigation, told the AP in June that the report is a comprehensive review of everything the CIA did in the secret detention and interrogation program begun in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The investigation was undertaken in response to concerns expressed by agency employees about the program, he added. □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer




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U.S. families of Lockerbie victims plan next move

By SAMANTHA HENRY

Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. — Relatives of Americans killed when Pan Am Flight 103 was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, plan to converge on New York City in September to protest Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's speech at the United Nations.

Family members are furious that convicted Libyan bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi was released from a Scottish prison Thursday and was greeted in Libya by cheering crowds.

Susan Cohen, whose 20-year-old daughter, Theodora, died in the attack, called the release "a triumph for terrorism" and said Gadhafi is to blame.

"Look what we've come to be, a man blows up

an American plane and now here he (Gadhafi) is rolling into New York in triumph," she said, adding sarcastically, "That's wonderful. Makes the world safer, doesn't it?"

Cohen, of Cape May Court House, N.J., said the release is a major concession to Gadhafi, who she said wields increasing power through lucrative oil contracts with Western nations. Cohen, like several victims' family members, said she's disappointed that President Barack Obama's administration is not taking a harder line.

"The fact is, every time this kind of appeasement happens, it really endangers the innocent public," Cohen said. "What would any terrorist think looking at this? How scared would

you be?"

Scottish officials said al-Megrahi, a former Libyan intelligence officer, has advanced prostate cancer and was given only months to live. They said they were bound by Scottish rules of compassion to release him, although he had served only eight years of a life sentence.

Frank Dugan, president of the group Victims of Pan Am Flight 103, said members didn't spend much time discussing al-Megrahi's release or the welcoming reception he received during a two-hour conference call the group held Friday night.

"We didn't focus on that — it just turns our stomach to see that," Dugan said in an interview after the call. "We were led to believe there



Susan Cohen sits with Archie, one of her cats, in her home in Cape May Court House, N.J. on Thursday, August 20, 2009. Her daughter Theodora was one of the passengers killed in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in 1988. More than two decades after a terrorist bomb blew a Pan Am jetliner out of the sky, victims' relatives watched in anger as the only man ever convicted in the attack boarded another flight to his freedom in Libya. It's appalling, disgusting and so sickening I can hardly find words to describe it," said Cohen. "Lockerbie looks like it never happened now — there isn't anybody in prison for it."

Associated Press

Pilot pleaded to evacuate stranded passengers

JOAN LOWY,

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. government officials said Friday that the airline whose passengers were stranded overnight on an airport tarmac in the Midwest state of Minnesota was not fault, but they blamed another airline for refusing requests to allow the passengers to enter the airport's terminal.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said an investigation by his department found that the captain of Continental Express Flight 2816 and other officials for ExpressJet, the regional air carrier that operated the flight for Continental Airlines, repeatedly pleaded to allow the passengers to deplane and enter the Rochester terminal on Aug. 8.

There were turned down by representatives of Mesaba Airlines, who incorrectly said that the passengers could not be allowed inside because Transportation Security Administration personnel had left for the day, LaHood said in a statement. That was incorrect — passengers could have stayed in a separate "sterile" area, he said.

Mesaba was the only airline with staff still at the airport during the incident earlier

this month.

The plane left Houston at night on Aug. 7, but was diverted by thunderstorms to Rochester. Passengers were kept for about six hours waiting inside the cramped regional jet plane amid wailing babies and a smelly toilet even though they were only 50 yards from a terminal.

In the morning they were allowed to deplane.

They spent about two and a half hours inside the terminal before reboarding the same plane. They eventually arrived in Minneapolis, their destination, later.

"We have determined that the Express Jet crew was not at fault. In fact, the flight crew repeatedly tried to get permission to deplane the passengers at the airport or obtain a bus for them," LaHood said.

"There was a complete lack of common sense here," the secretary added. "It's no wonder the flying public is so angry and frustrated."

Mesaba is a subsidiary of Northwest Airlines, which is a subsidiary of Delta Air Lines.

A spokesman for Mesaba parent Delta Air Lines Inc. did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment. □


wouldn't be any 'dancing in the end zone,' as I call it, but that's what happened." Instead, members focused on logistics for the Gadhafi protest, tentatively planned for Sept. 23, along with plans for the upcoming 21st anniversary of the Dec. 21, 1988, bombing, which killed 270 people. The anniversary event will be held at Syracuse University, where 35 of the victims went to school.

"These are the things we're working on, things that are important to us," Dugan said, adding that no final plans have been made for


the Gadhafi demonstration.

Dugan said earlier his group had been receiving calls from a wide variety of organizations that plan to join the protest. Cohen said she had even been contacted by a local group of Scottish immigrants who planned to protest their government's actions on behalf of the Pan Am families.

Dugan did not lose any family members on the flight but joined the victims group after serving on the commission appointed by former President George H.W. Bush that investigated the bombing. □



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ALWAYS ... ON TOP OF THE NEWS!

Senate negotiators aim to cut costs in health bill



By ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—Bipartisan health care negotiators are aiming to cut the costs of their bill after getting an earful from voters, a participant in the closed-door talks said Friday.

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-

Maine, a moderate whose support could be crucial if President Barack Obama is to realize his goal of a comprehensive health care overhaul, said contact with constituents “sharpened our focus on issues such as affordability and cost.”

“We keep reinventing

the wheel in terms of our approach based on what we learn at home,” Snowe told The Associated Press.

Snowe is one of six senators — three Democrats and three Republicans — on the pivotal Senate Finance Committee who have been negotiating for months to come up with a health care bill that could garner bipartisan support.

With raucous town halls dominating Congress’ August recess and prospects for bipartisanship appearing to dim, Snowe said the outcome was uncertain.

“People are confused, and rightfully so given how many issues and how many plans are out there,” Snowe said. “Ours isn’t, and so

whether or not we can break through that chatter remains to be seen.”

Members of the so-called Gang of Six spoke on a conference call late Thursday, their first discussion since leaving Washington for recess.

They discussed controlling costs on their bill while still extending affordable coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans. The final price tag will likely hover around \$900 billion over 10 years.

Snowe said keeping down costs means tinkering with the design of health care plans that would be offered through new purchasing exchanges. Another piece is the level of subsidies to be offered to help low-income people buy care, something that remains a matter of debate, Snowe said.

In their reach for a bipartisan product, Finance Committee negotiators are looking at nonprofit co-ops instead of a new public insurance plan that has become a lightning rod in the debate.

How that will turn out remains to be seen. Another Finance negotiator, Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., has said there are not enough votes in the Senate to pass a health bill with a new public plan that would compete with private insurers.

But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Thursday that the House couldn’t pass a bill without one.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer seemed to contradict Pelosi on Friday when asked about her comments.

“I’m for a public option but I’m also for passing a bill,” Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters. “We believe the public option is a necessary, useful and very important aspect of this, but you know, we’ll have to see because there are many other important aspects of the bill as well.”

Obama and members of his administration this week indicated a public plan wasn’t an essential piece of a final bill, drawing criticism from some Democrats.

Before leaving town for a 10-day vacation, Obama met Friday with former Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, an expert on health care policy and politics who was Obama’s first choice for secretary of Health and Human Services before tax troubles derailed his nomination. A White House statement said the two “agreed that substantive reform that lowers costs, reforms the insurance industry, and expands coverage is too important to wait another year or another administration.” □



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LUTERANS

Continued from Page B1

Under the new policy, individual ELCA congregations will be allowed to hire homosexuals as clergy as long as they are in a committed relationships. Until now, gays and lesbians had to remain celibate to serve as clergy.

The change passed with the support of 68 percent of about 1,000 delegates at the ELCA's national assembly. It makes the group, with about 4.7 million members in the U.S., one of the largest U.S. Christian denominations yet to take a more gay-friendly stance.

"I have seen these same-gender relationships function in the same way as heterosexual relationships — bringing joy and blessings as well as trials and hardships," the Rev. Leslie

Williamson, associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, Illinois, said during the hours of debate. "The same-gender couples I know live in love and faithfulness and are called to proclaim the word of God as are all of us."

Conservative congregations will not be forced to hire gay clergy. Nevertheless, opponents of the shift decried what they saw as straying from clear Scriptural direction, and warned that it could lead some congregations and individual churchgoers to split off from the ELCA.

"This will cause an ever greater loss in members and finances. I can't believe the church I loved and served for 40 years can condone what God condemns," said the Rev. Richard Mahan, pastor at St.

Timothy Lutheran Church in Charleston, West Virginia. "Nowhere in Scripture does it say homosexuality and same-sex marriage is acceptable to God. Instead, it says it is immoral and perverted."

David Keck, a delegate from the Southern Ohio Synod, said he feared that by embracing partnered gays as clergy that the ELCA was heading down a road that would ultimately lead to "the blessing of same-sex unions as the policy of this church," he said.

Mahan said he believed a majority of his congregation would want to now break off from the ELCA.

Other leaders indicated they might leave as well, but ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson said after the vote he was committed to keeping opponents of the new policy



Evangelical Lutheran Church of America voting members, left to right, Orinda Hawkins-Brinkley, Diane Yeager, Marj Ellis and Steven Schnittke, along with other members of the ELCA, stop for a moment of prayer Friday morning Aug. 21, 2009 during their assembly at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis. More than 1,000 members debated and voted on whether to allow gay and lesbian clergy to serve while be in committed same-sex relationships.

Associated Press

within the ELCA fold.

"I'm pleading with people to stay in there with us in this conversation," Hanson said. In September, Lutheran CORE — the group that led the fight against the changes — is holding a convention in Indianapolis to discuss the next steps. It also encouraged ELCA members and congregations to direct finances away from ELCA churchwide organizations and toward "faithful ministries within and outside of the ELCA."

Other Christian denominations in the United States have struggled to remain united in the face of such debates. In 2003, the 2 million-member Episcopal Church of the United States consecrated its first openly gay bishop, a move that alienated American Episcopalians from its worldwide parent church, the Anglican Communion. The divide has led to the formation of the more conservative Anglican Church in North America, which claims 100,000 members. □

Woman wins \$21M in lawsuit against Cuba

BELFAST, Maine (AP) — A woman who alleged that Cuban officials caused the wrongful death of her father while on a covert mission in 1963 has won a \$21 million default judgment against the island nation, but her prospects of collecting may be a long shot.

Sherry Sullivan is the daughter of Geoffrey Sullivan, a former member of the U.S. Air Force and Army National Guard who became a certified commercial pilot. She believes he was shot down over Cuba, imprisoned and probably executed by the Cuban government.

Also named as defendants were former President Fidel Castro, President Raul Castro and the Cuban army. They were dismissed by Waldo County Superior Court Justice Jeffrey Hjelm because it could not be determined whether they received the court documents. The Swiss Embassy in Havana served a copy of the suit to the Cuba Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008. Cuba never responded, leading Hjelm to issue his default judgment on Aug. 10. Sullivan said the money is less important to her than information about her father.

"I never, never once asked for money," she told the Bangor Daily News. "I was in court asking for information, either from this government or the



Demonstrators, holding up an image of Cuban leader Fidel Castro, take part in a rally marking the Cuba's Day of National Rebellion in Holguin, northeast of Cuba, Sunday, July 26, 2009. July 26, Cuba's Day of National Rebellion, marks a new anniversary of the attack against Moncada military complex, where a band of rebels, led by Fidel and Raul Castro, launched the attack 56 years ago, planting the seeds for the 1959 Cuban revolution. Holguin was selected to host the main July 26, 2009, celebration.

Associated Press

Cuban government, and I just can't get it done."

Daniel G. Partan, a professor of international law at Boston University School of Law, said prospects of Sullivan collecting the \$21 million are "very iffy." Partan, who had not seen the case, said that in general, the law doesn't require damages in cases where a foreign national engages in unlawful behavior in a country.

Sullivan's lawsuit, filed in May 2007, says her father and a second man "participated in various anti-Castro covert operations in Central America and Cuba" between 1960 until they disappeared around Oct. 1, 1963. The suit says those activities may have included sabotage and subversion. It cites evidence that Sullivan was imprisoned after being shot down during a covert mission in Cuba. □



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Karzai, Abdullah both claim lead in Afghan vote



Afghan incumbent President Hamid Karzai greets the media after a press conference in Kabul, Thursday Aug. 20, 2009. Afghans voted under the shadow of Taliban threats of violence Thursday to choose their next president for a nation plagued by armed insurgency, drugs, corruption and a feeble government nearly eight years after the U.S.-led invasion.

Associated Press

JASON STRAZIUSO
ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writers

KABUL (AP) — Both main candidates for Afghan president claimed to be ahead after an election marred by violence, spotty turnout and fraud allegations — threatening U.S. hopes for Afghans to come together to combat the challenges of Taliban insurgency, corruption and poverty.

President Hamid Karzai's campaign insisted Friday he would have enough votes to avoid a runoff with his chief challenger, Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister. Abdullah countered that he was leading but suspected there would be a runoff.

Election officials called on the candidates to refrain from such claims, which could delay formation of a new government. Officials of Afghan and international monitoring teams agreed it was too early to say who won or to know whether fraud was extensive enough to influence the outcome.

Millions of Afghans voted Thursday in the country's second-ever direct presidential election, although Taliban threats held down the turnout, especially in the militant south where Karzai was expected to run strong among his fellow Pashtuns. Insurgent attacks claimed more than two dozen lives.

Partial preliminary results won't be released by the election commission before Tuesday with final official returns due in early September. Officials count ballots at voting centers around the country and then send the figures to Kabul, where they are tabulated, verified and announced.

Nevertheless, the absence of official figures didn't dissuade supporters of the two leading candidates from issuing their own claims, which they said were based on reports from

their representatives at the counting centers.

Karzai's campaign spokesman, Waheed Omar, said the president's campaign believes "we are well ahead" in the ballot count and will end up with more than 50 percent of the votes — enough to avoid a runoff that Omar said would be "logistically, financially and also politically" problematic.

"Our prediction is that the election will not go to the second round," Omar said. "Our initial information is that we will hopefully be able to win the elections in the first round."

Abdullah challenged the claim, telling The Associated Press that he was in the lead "despite the rigging which has taken place in some parts of the country."

He alleged that government officials interfered with ballot boxes and in some places blocked monitors from inspecting boxes or their contents. Abdullah said there "is a likelihood" that neither he nor Karzai would win more than 50 percent of the vote, setting the stage for a runoff in early October.

The U.S. Embassy and Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission dismissed both sides' claims, saying it was too early for anyone to declare victory. Commission chairman Noor Mohammed Noor said candidates had no basis for such claims and should refrain from making them.

As the counting continued, so did violence. A U.S. service member died Friday from wounds from a bomb in eastern Afghanistan, the NATO-led military alliance said. No other information was released. Two British troops in the south died on Thursday, officials announced.

Two policemen were killed in a suicide attack Friday against a police station in Jalalabad, officials said. Witnesses said three assailants attacked the station after sundown and two of them escaped. □



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Report: Russian hydro plant called unsafe in 1998

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Russian authorities were reportedly warned back in 1998 that Siberia's massive Sayano-Shushenskaya hydroelectric power plant had fallen into serious neglect and was unsafe.

On Friday, 47 people were confirmed dead and dozens were still missing after an explosion Monday at the plant — an accident that has revealed the dangers of Russia's creaking infrastructure.

For years, the Kremlin was urged by independent experts and even its own ministries to invest some of its oil-and-gas billions to update Soviet-era infrastructure.

But a lack of expertise combined with government

apathy means that not only Russian power plants but dangerous roads, decaying utilities, aging transport fleets and creaking buildings continue to take victims as they fall further into disrepair.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who toured the crippled Siberian power plant on Friday, has acknowledged that Russia must plan for the regular upgrade of "vital parts of infrastructure."

But Vladimir Tikhomirov, chief economist at the Moscow-based bank UralSib, says Russia has to spend big if it wants to reverse the neglect of the stagnant 1990s.

"It's about more than \$100 (billion) to 200 billion if we're talking about all infrastructure — and you can't make it all in one year," he said Friday.

The latest statistics show that as little as 7.4 percent of all equipment in the power sector was replaced by 2007. Studies showed that half needed replacing and 15 percent was worn out beyond repair.

Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko has said it would cost 40 billion rubles (\$1.2 billion) just to rebuild the damaged turbine room.

The death toll at Sayano-Shushenskaya is likely to rise with 28 workers still missing and Putin on Friday urged RusHydro, the owner of Sayano-Shushenskaya, to compensate the families of the dead. RusHydro has already pledged to pay 1 million rubles (\$31,300) to the families of the dead. Putin promised to match the company's payouts with federal money. □

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Court: Stolen Mexican oil sold to German Corp.

MARTHA MENDOZA

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A Texas oil executive says his small company was one of several that bought millions of dollars worth of stolen Mexican petroleum and then sold the illicit products to larger U.S. companies including chemical giant BASF.

Houston-based Trammo Petroleum president Donald Schroeder, the first to be convicted as part of a cross-border investigation, testified that he was contacted by two fuel company representatives who “told me they had some Mexican condensate that they would like to sell,” according to U.S. federal court transcripts obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

Schroeder testified that his contact at Continental Fuels Inc. was Josh Crescenzi, who worked for the 2004 re-election campaign of President George W. Bush and for the Republican National Party in 2004 and 2006, according to campaign finance records.

Crescenzi said “that the condensate was stolen,” Schroeder testified during a May 2009 court appearance. “And, so what did you do about it?” Judge Ewing Werlein said.

“I bought it and sold it,” answered Schroeder, pleading guilty to buying and reselling stolen condensate, a liquid hydrocarbon that refiners can blend with crude oil as they produce fuel and other products.

Schroeder and his attorneys have repeatedly declined

to comment, and Crescenzi could not immediately be reached.

Schroeder is the first to be convicted as part of a cross-border investigation that began when Mexican state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, contacted U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in 2007 to report their suspicions that their products were being smuggled into the U.S.

BASF spokesman Daniel Pepitone says his company received a U.S. Justice Department subpoena related to the case, and they are cooperating with authorities. He confirmed that BASF did business with Trammo Petroleum, and said that “we have no reason to believe that BASF had any involvement in the alleged wrongdoing.” Joel Androphy, the lawyer for Murphy Energy Corp., said Murphy didn’t commit any crimes.

“If anything we’ve been victimized, clearly,” he said. “The leaks that go on, it’s pretty unfair to start leaking information about innocent parties here.”

Pemex has been struggling for years to quell a seemingly endless series of taps on its pipelines by thieves increasingly associated with Mexico’s violent drug cartels. Pemex is the only legal owner and exporter of condensate into the U.S. from Mexico, but ICE investigators found other U.S. brokers were in on the deals, according to the transcripts.

Here’s how they did it: Various unnamed companies drove the stolen Mexican oil in tankers across the U.S. border, delivering their illicit loads to the port of Brownsville, Texas. Continental paid with a series of wire transfers, then stored the oil in tanks until there was enough to load on a barge, which then



Mexican police stand next to installations used to illegally tap fuel from pipelines belonging to the Mexico’s state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex near the town of Cerralvo, northern Mexico June 23, 2009.

Associated Press

embarked for Port Arthur, Texas, and ultimately sold to BASF, according to the records from the U.S. district court in Houston.

Even though they never handled the condensate, Murphy and Trammo bought the stolen oil during this process, the court records say.

Schroeder has been ordered to pay a \$2 million fine to the U.S. government while he awaits a December sentencing, and U.S. officials have returned a separate \$2.4 million refund check from Trammo to partially compensate Pemex for its losses. □



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Iranian Cabinet nominee wanted in Argentine attack



A man places a black balloon by the names and pictures of the victims of the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center on the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009. The terrorist attack was the worst on Argentine soil, killing 85 people, injuring over 200 and demolishing the Argentine Israeli Mutual Aid Association, known as the AMIA.

HADEEL AL-SHALCHI

Associated Press Writer

CAIRO (AP) — The man Iran's president has named to be defense minister is wanted in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, and his nomination drew an outcry from Argentina and Jewish groups.

Ahmad Vahidi, who commanded a unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guard known as the Quds Force at the time

of the attack, was nominated by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Wednesday along with others named to fill Cabinet positions. The Quds Force is involved in operations abroad, including working with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which is accused to carrying out the Buenos Aires attack.

Argentina Prosecutor Alberto Nisman told The Associated Press on Friday that Vahidi is accused of "being a key

participant in the planning and of having made the decision to go ahead with the attack against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association."

Nisman has led the investigation into the July 18, 1994, bombing — Argentina's bloodiest terrorist attack. The bomb exploded inside a van outside the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association, killing 85 people and wounding 200.

"It has been demonstrated that Vahidi participated in and

approved of the decision to attack AMIA during a meeting in Iran on Aug. 14, 1993," when he led the Quds Force, Nisman said.

He added that Vahidi was never in Argentina.

Argentine officials claim that Iran orchestrated the attack and that the Iranian-backed Hezbollah carried it out. The United States and Israel also say Iran is behind the bombing, but Iran has denied it.

Ahmadinejad submitted his 18 Cabinet nominees late Wednesday to parliament, which must approve the list. Most of the nominees were close Ahmadinejad loyalists or little-known figures, while public critics of the president from his previous Cabinet were purged. At least four nominees — for defense, interior, intelligence and oil minister — had ties with the elite Revolutionary Guard, a powerful base of support for the president.

"It's significant, this nomination, but not surprising," said Nisman about Vahidi's nomination. "Iran has always protected terrorists, giving them government posts, but I think never one as high as this one."

The president of the Jewish cultural center in Buenos

Aires, Guillermo Borger, told Argentina's Jewish News Agency Friday that "we are completely surprised and outraged by the nomination of Ahmad Vahid. ... His nomination is shameless and insulting."

Interpol said in 2007 it would help Argentina seek the arrest of Vahid and four other prominent Iranians wanted in connection with the attack.

Among the others is Mohsen Rezaei, who ran against Ahmadinejad in the June 12 presidential election and is a former leader of the Revolutionary Guard.

The other wanted Iranians are former intelligence chief Ali Fallahian; Mohsen Rabbani, former cultural attache at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires; and former diplomat Ahmad Reza Asghari.

Interpol had also sought Hezbollah militant Imad Mughniyeh, who was killed in a car bombing in Damascus, Syria, in February 2008.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said Friday that if Vahidi was indeed the man wanted by Interpol, it would be very "disturbing" to see him confirmed in the Iranian Cabinet. □

Landslide on Portuguese beach kills 5, injures 4

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — A landslide at a Portuguese seaside resort killed five people and injured at least four Friday, officials said.

Part of a cliff collapsed and buried bathers at Maria Luisa beach in Albufeira on the Algarve coast, said Marques Pereira, the head of maritime facilities in Faro.

Four women — two under age 25 — and a 60-year-old man had died, the country's emergency service said in a statement. It was not immediately clear if other people were buried under the debris. The nationalities of those involved in the accident were not disclosed.

The section of beach under the cliff that collapsed had been cordoned off with warning signs pointing out the danger of a possible landslide, Pereira said.

"The sandstone of the cliff was pretty fragile and a risk of a landslide existed to the point that the maritime authority had placed warning signs," Pereira said.

Rescue efforts were concentrated in trying to find a man and a child under the debris before the tide came in, Pereira said.

Prime Minister Jose Socrates and other officials traveled to Albufeira to oversee rescue operations.

Spanish state broadcaster RNE said a Spanish man had been rescued from the scene. □



Rescue workers search for survivors after part of a cliff collapsed and buried bathers on Maria Luisa in Albufeira on southern Portugal's Algarve coast Friday, Aug. 21 2009. The landslide killed one person and injured at least eight while two others are still missing.

Associated Press

Two Koreas hold high-level talks; first in two years

KWANG-TAE KIM,
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Top South and North Korean officials in charge of inter-Korean relations opened talks Saturday for the first time in nearly two years amid a series of conciliatory moves by North Korea after months of tensions on the divided peninsula.

Unification Minister Hyun In-taek met visiting North Korean spy chief Kim Yang Gon, who also handles inter-Korean affairs, ministry spokeswoman Lee Jong-joo said. She did not give further details.

The last time officials responsible for inter-Korean affairs met was for several days from late November to early December of 2007 during the administration of

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

"I would like to talk inter-Korean" issues, Hyun told reporters before he entered a hotel conference room for discussions with his North Korean counterpart, Yonhap news agency reported.

But he sounded cautious about whether the North Korean delegation would make a courtesy call to President Lee Myung-bak, whose hard-line policy toward the communist regime soured bilateral relations.

The talks came a day after Kim and five other senior North Koreans flew to Seoul to pay their respects to the late Kim Dae-jung, a former South Korean president beloved on both sides of the border for his pursuit of closer ties between the

divided states.

The North Koreans were scheduled to return home later Saturday.

The meeting also marked the first high-level talks between the two Koreas since Lee, a pro-U.S. conservative leader, took office in February last year.

On Friday, the black-clad North Koreans lit incense, bowed their heads and laid a floral wreath before a large portrait of the late Kim at a memorial site on the grounds of the National Assembly, where the funeral will be held. The delegation was the first Pyongyang ever sent to mourn a South Korean leader.

Kim, who died Tuesday at age 85, was respected on both sides of the border for his efforts to forge detente



North Korean Chief delegate Kim Ki Nam, center right, the country's spy chief Kim Yang Gon, second from right, and other delegation pay a silent tribute for the late former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung during a memorial service at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Aug. 21, 2009. A high-level delegation of North Korean officials paid their respects Friday at the mourning site for Kim, shaking his sons' hands and leaving a wreath at the National Assembly memorial. At right is an unidentified South Korean guide.

Associated Press

with the North.

He reached out to South Korea's impoverished neighbor with aid — the main thrust of his "Sunshine Policy" that earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 — and held a landmark summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in 2000. The visit is the latest

indication that North Korea wants to improve relations on the peninsula after months of tensions. The communist nation recently pulled out of nuclear negotiations, conducted an atomic test and test-fired a barrage of missiles, earning international condemnation and U.N. sanctions. □



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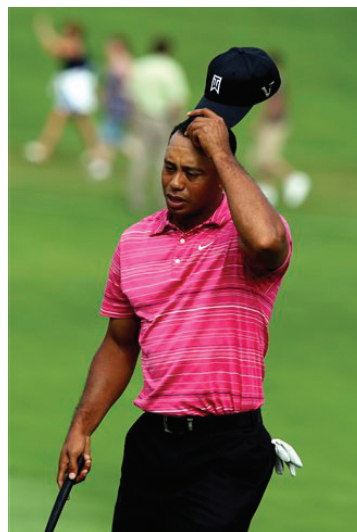
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Tiger Woods reacts on the 18th hole during the first round of the Buick Open at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc, Mich., Thursday, July 30, 2009.

Associated Press

Woods enters opening playoff event at The Barclays

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Tiger Woods entered The Barclays on Friday, an indication that the world's No. 1 player plans to compete in all four FedEx Cup playoff events for the first time.

In a tough economic year in which PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem has asked the players to do more for the sponsors, Woods came through in a big way by agreeing to compete in The Barclays. He has not played the tournament since 2003, when it was held in June, and he has not played since Barclays took over as title sponsor in 2005.

Barclays' contract with the PGA Tour is up for renewal next year.

Woods is assured of being the No. 1 seed when the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup begins Thursday with The Barclays. A new points system means players are more likely to lose ground if they take a week off.

Even so, that likely didn't have a bearing on Woods' decision.

Continued on Page B12



Allyson Felix of the United States reacts after winning the gold medal in the final of the Women's 200m during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Friday, Aug. 21, 2009.

Associated Press

Felix breaks Jamaican hold on sprints at worlds

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BERLIN (AP) — Usain Bolt got the birthday present he wanted from his teammates at the world championships on Friday, and Allyson Felix spoiled the party by ending Jamaica's sprint domination.

After the Jamaican relay team qualified for the 4x100 final without Bolt on the track, Felix glided to the finish with an elegance reminiscent of a long distance runner to win her third straight 200-meter world title.

With a raised fist and little more than a smile at the finish, Felix broke the Jamaican hold on sprinting dating back to the Beijing Olympics. She held off an early charge from Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown of Jamaica, and once she entered the straight where her stride is at its most efficient, there was no stopping her.

"I was very confident about my strength," Felix said. "I defended my title. I cannot ask for more." It was the first sprint gold medal for the United States at the championships and Jamaica's first loss. Jamaica beat the United States 5-0 in sprints in Beijing.

Earlier, the Jamaican sprint team qualified for the 4x100 relay final, giving Bolt a shot at winning a third gold and setting a third world record at the world championships.

The United States was disqualified for an illegal baton change, robbing the championships of a high-powered clash with the Jamaicans.

The women's sprint relay teams also have their final on Saturday.

The relay disqualification was the only blemish on a good day for the United States, which also got a 1-2 finish in the men's 400 with Olympic champion LaShawn Merritt beating defending champion Jeremy Wariner.

The United States jumped over Jamaica in the medals table with six golds and 16 overall. Jamaica was second with five gold and 10 overall.

The victory of Yaroslav Rybakov in the men's high jump and Sergey Kiryapkin in the 50-kilometer walk gave Russia four golds and 11 overall. After two gold medals and two world records in six days, Bolt took a rest Friday, centering on signing autographs instead of running as he celebrated his 23rd birthday with the fans at the Olympic Stadium.

When he collected his gold for the 200 title and a second \$100,000 check for his world record, some 45,000 fans in the stands gave him a heartfelt "Happy Birthday to You" serenade. It was another indication that nothing can seemingly go wrong for the star of the championships.

Continued on Page B13



Serena Williams, of the United States, waves to the crowd after defeating Lucie Safarova, of the Czech Republic, in Rogers Cup tennis action in Toronto on Friday, Aug. 21, 2009.

Associated Press

Serena, Dementieva advance to Rogers Cup semifinals

TORONTO (AP) — Serena Williams put away Czech qualifier Lucie Safarova 6-3, 6-2 in the Rogers Cup quarterfinals on Friday.

Williams, the 2001 champion, took less than an hour, while No. 5 Elena Dementieva took more than twice as long to beat Australia's Samantha Stosur 6-7 (3), 6-1, 6-3. They set up a rematch of their Wimbledon semifinal, a three-set thriller won by Williams.

"I'm sure it's going to be tough to face Serena one more time," Dementieva said. "It looks like she's in good shape. She has played very powerful in all her matches this week, so it's going to be a tough challenge."

The No. 2-ranked Williams advanced to her seventh semifinal in 13 tournaments this season — but her first since winning Wimbledon in July.

Dementieva, seeking her third title of the year, exchanged breaks with Stosur six straight times in the first set. Stosur pulled away in the tiebreaker thanks to three consecutive unforced errors from the Russian. The final one — a simple forehand that Dementieva drove into the net — gave Stosur the set. □

AL Roundup

Drew, Lester lead Red Sox past Blue Jays

TORONTO (AP)—J.D. Drew homered twice and Jon Lester pitched eight strong innings as the Boston Red Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-1 on Thursday to complete a three-game sweep in the American League.

Victor Martinez connected for the second straight night for the Red Sox, who have hit two or more homers in six consecutive games, and nine of 10.

The Red Sox have 32 homers in August, three shy of the team record set in 2006.

Drew hit a leadoff homer in the second, a two-run drive to almost the same spot in the third and finished with four hits. The homers, Nos. 14 and 15, came off rookie Brett Cecil.

Lester (10-7) allowed one run and three hits to win for the first time in five starts and improve to 3-1 with a 1.65 ERA in four outings against Toronto this season.

Fernando Cabrera finished the three-hitter.

Indians 11, Angels 3

At Cleveland, Justin Masterson pitched into the seventh inning and rookie Matt LaPorta had a career-high three RBIs as Cleveland battered Los Angeles starter John Lackey. Masterson (4-4) did not allow an earned run in 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time since being acquired from Boston in the trade for Victor Martinez hours before the July 31 trade deadline. He allowed three hits and four walks while striking out three. He left in the seventh with the bases loaded and one out, but reliever Tony Sipp came on to end the threat.

Jhonny Peralta had two singles and a double to lead seven Cleveland batters with

at least two hits. The Indians scored 11 runs in a game for the second time this month.

LaPorta, making his first appearance since being recalled from Triple-A Columbus on Wednesday, doubled home two runs in the seven-run sixth inning, then added a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Rangers 11, Twins 1

At Arlington, Texas, Nelson Cruz homered in his return to the Texas lineup and Marlon Byrd connected twice as Texas trounced Minnesota.

Julio Borbon went 3 for 5 with three RBIs, and is hitting .536 (15 for 28) in seven starts since being recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City while Cruz was hurt. Michael Young and Hank Blalock both had three hits for the Rangers, who snapped a two-game skid.

Cruz was activated from the 15-day disabled list before the game after the All-Star slugger missed 15 games because of a sprained left ankle. His 26th homer leading off the sixth put the Rangers up 5-1.

Rookie Derek Holland (7-7) allowed one run in 5 1-3 innings to win his third straight start.

Orioles 8, Rays 7

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Brian Roberts hit his fourth career grand slam and Nolan Reimold added a three-run shot to lead Baltimore past Tampa Bay.

Roberts' 12th homer came on a 3-2 pitch from reliever Lance Cormier with two outs in the sixth and made it 5-1. Roberts was the first batter Cormier faced after replacing starter James Shields.

Reimold extended the lead to 8-4 with his homer in the seventh. The Orioles stopped

a five-game losing streak.

Ben Zobrist homered and had four RBIs for the Rays, who entered with a four-game winning streak. Carlos Pena drove in two runs with a single during a three-run eighth as Tampa Bay cut its deficit to 8-7.

Jim Johnson pitched the final 1 1-3 innings for his fifth save.

At Detroit, Clete Thomas' two-out, RBI single capped Detroit's two-run rally in the ninth inning over Seattle.

The AL Central-leading Tigers trailed 6-2 before scoring three times in the sixth and two more in the final inning, setting off a celebration around Thomas at first base.



Boston Red Sox's J.D. Drew celebrates a two-run home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

In other AL games it was, 8, Toronto 1; Baltimore 8, Detroit 7; Seattle 6; Cleveland Tampa Bay 7; and Texas 11, L.A. Angels 3; Boston Minnesota 1. □

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St. Louis Cardinals' Brendan Ryan connects for a grand slam home run against the San Diego Padres in the second inning of a baseball game Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009 in San Diego. Padres catcher Nick Hundley, is at left.

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Brendan Ryan hit a grand slam and 7 2-3 strong innings as the Joel Pineiro won his sixth St. Louis Cardinals downed

NL Roundup

Ryan hits grand slam in Cardinals' 5-1 win

the San Diego Padres 5-1 in the National League on Thursday.

Ryan's first career grand slam staked Pineiro (12-9) to a 4-0 lead in the second inning as the Cardinals won for the 16th time in 21 games.

The only run Pineiro allowed was a homer to rookie Kyle Blanks, who connected in the second inning for his ninth homer. Blanks homered for the third time in four games. St. Louis has won nine consecutive starts by Pineiro, who last lost on June 28, against Minnesota.

Pineiro struck out six and walked two and combined with three relievers on a four-hitter.

Ryan's grand slam off Tim Stauffer (1-6), who four runs and four hits over five innings. He struck out six and walked two.

At Los Angeles, Russell Martin snapped a sixth-inning tie with a grand slam to lead Los Angeles past Chicago.

Martin's second career grand slam provided much-needed offense for the Dodgers, who scored three runs or less in five of their previous seven games. They lost each of those five games and saw their NL West lead shrink to 3½ games over Colorado in that stretch.

Los Angeles still owns the NL's best record at 72-50, although the club is just 16-18 since the All-Star break, including an 8-11 mark this month.

The Cubs went 4-10 in their last 14 games.

Ronald Belisario (2-2) got two outs for his first victory since April 30.

At Philadelphia, Jayson Werth hit his fourth home run in three games, and Ryan Howard hit a three-run shot to lead Philadelphia to a three-game sweep of Arizona.

Carlos Ruiz homered for the Phillies, who won their fourth straight game and eighth in nine. Werth's two-run shot in the fifth gave the Phillies a three-run lead, and Ruiz and Howard homered off different relievers in a five-run sixth.

Joe Blanton went eight innings and had two singles, the first multihit game of his career, to become the third straight Phillies pitcher to record two hits in a game. Jamie Moyer and Cliff Lee did it Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. Blanton (8-6) allowed three runs and a season-high 10 hits.

At Washington, Carlos Gonzalez blooped an RBI double in the fifth inning that

helped Colorado complete a three-game sweep of Washington.

Gonzalez's club record-tying streak of four games with a homer ended, but he came through for the NL wild-card leaders. Troy Tulowitzki and Brad Hawpe drove in runs to back Jason Hammel (8-7), who allowed one run and three hits in seven innings.

Huston Street worked a perfect ninth for his 32nd save in 33 chances, including every game this series.

Colorado has won four straight and eight of 11.

At New York, Kenshin Kawakami outpitched Johan Santana, and Brian McCann hit a solo homer as Atlanta edged New York.

Omar Infante and former Mets outfielder Ryan Church also drove in runs for the Braves, who have won nine of 12 entering a three-game series against fellow playoff contender Florida.

In other NL games it was, Cincinnati 2, San Francisco 1, 10 innings; Philadelphia 12, Arizona 3; Colorado 4, Washington 1; Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 2; Houston 4, Florida 1; St. Louis 5, San Diego 1; and L.A. Dodgers 7, Chicago Cubs 2. □

WOODS

Continued from Page B10

He skipped the opening playoff event in 2007 during the first year of the FedEx Cup, then tied for second and won the last two events to easily claim the \$10 million bonus.

He did not play last year because of knee surgery.

"The Barclays has been an exciting kickoff to the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup each of the first two years. Having Tiger in the field this year will, no doubt, bring even more excitement to the tournament," tournament director Pete Mele said.

A change in the schedule also helps.

The Barclays will be followed by the Deutsche Bank Championship outside Boston, then the BMW Championship in the Chicago suburb. The tour will take a week off before the final event — with the points reset — at the Tour Championship in Atlanta.

Woods has not played a regular PGA Tour event in the New York area since the Buick Classic at Westchester in 2003. He played Westchester three times without winning.

The Barclays will be played this year at Liberty National. The 125-man field will not be set until the conclusion of the Wyndham Championship this week in Greenboro, North Carolina.

Should he play all four playoff events, as expected, Woods will have played seven times in a nine-week stretch dating to the Buick Open. □

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JAMAICAN HOLD

Continued from Page B10

With two records and two golds, he has already won \$320,000.

It was also clear that the Jamaicans can use all the help they can get from Bolt. With former world-record holder Asafa Powell also sitting out the heat, Jamaica struggled to finish second in its heat behind Italy. The team had the sixth best qualifying time overall.

"We are so confident that we can beat everybody," said Michael Frater, who also was on Jamaica's record breaking team in at the Beijing Games. "We are not afraid of anybody."

The only shadow hanging over the team was whether Powell would be able to make it to Saturday's final because of an injury problem. It was unclear what that injury was, however.

"We are not sure about Asafa running," anchor runner Dwight Thomas said.

Bolt has won the 100 and 200 with world record times at the championships. He also won all three events at the Olympics.

Bolt is the backbone of a Jamaican sprint team which has been a perfect 3-for-3 so far at the championships.

After dropping the baton in Beijing, the United States appeared to run a clean enough race to set up the defense of their world title, but a protest that they had exchanged batons outside the designated



Darvis Patton of the United States, left, takes the baton from Shawn Crawford during the Men's 4x100m relay first round during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Friday, Aug. 21, 2009.

Associated Press

zone quickly threw the result up in the air.

Russia made it a perfect three-for-three in the walks when Kirdyapkin used a late surge to win the 50k event, the longest of the nine-day championships.

Kiridyapkin was as imposing as Valeriy Borchin and Olga Kaniskina were over 20 kilometers, giving Russia a clean sweep in the discipline. "That's really the first time in history, and I'm very happy that it's the Russian team," Kiridyapkin said.

Dani Samuels won the gold in the women's discus with a throw of 65.44 meters to give Australia its first medal at the world championships.

Midway through the session, thunder, lightning and a massive downpour delayed events for almost an hour. □

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Ecuador descarta encuentro con Colombia en Unasur

QUITO (Reuters) - Ecuador descartó un encuentro bilateral con Colombia en la reunión de presidentes de la Unasur, pero seguirá trabajado para recomponer sus relaciones diplomáticas rotas hace más de un año, dijo el jueves el canciller ecuatoriano, Fander Falconí.

Los miembros de la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur) se reunirán a fin de mes en Argentina para analizar un plan militar que negocian Colombia y Estados Unidos y ha despertado críticas y preocupaciones en la región.

Al encuentro acudirá el presidente colombiano Alvaro Uribe, quien ha señalado su intención de iniciar diálogos para recomponer los lazos formales entre ambos países, pero para Ecuador ese escenario no servirá para el acercamiento.

“En el contexto de la reunión de Unasur no prevemos una diálogo bilateral (...) Están dadas las condiciones para que haya un procesamiento adecuado entre los dos países”, dijo Falconí a periodistas.

El canciller aclaró además que Quito y Bogotá pedirán “de forma conjunta” la mediación de una organización internacional “para que se planteen cuáles son los puntos que contempla la relación bilateral, que es bastante compleja”.

Los acercamientos entre los dos países se producen tras más de un año de estar alejados por una incursión del Ejército colombiano a territorio ecuatoriano para destruir una base de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC).

“Las cosas se están clarificando entre los dos países”, insistió Falconí, quien mantuvo la víspera una breve reunión con su par colombiano, Jaime Bermúdez, en Lima.

Sin embargo, el Ministerio de Defensa colombiano dijo el jueves que el país no ahorrará esfuerzos en defender a funcionarios y miembros de sus fuerzas armadas de posibles acciones judiciales de Ecuador, por el bombardeo de marzo del 2008, en el que murió el líder de las FARC Raúl Reyes. □



El ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Ecuador, Fander Falconí (der), y su par colombiano, Jaime Bermúdez, posa para la prensa en Lima, 19 ago 2009. REUTERS/Enrique Castro-Mendivil

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